Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Background of the study

Literature is as the expression of beautiful thoughts, feeling and human experience in beautiful language. According to west, literature is the body of written works of a language, period, or culture (19). Literature can also be described as "An analysis of experience and a synthesis of the findings into a unity or the art (occupation) of a literary writer" (20). Literature, in general, contains much information, especially information about history, sociology, and psychology (Brooks 1).

Besides, literature refers to written compositions designed to tell stories, dramatize situations, and reveal thoughts and emotions, and also more importantly, to interest, entertain, stimulate, broaden and enable readers to understanding in literature itself. People usually classify literature into the following genres or classes, which are "poetry, short story, drama, and novel (Roberts 1). Novels are different from stories, poems, and narratives in a number of key respects (Ellis 2).

The writer is interested in talking about novel because the story more complete and easier to understand than the other literary works. According to Eagleton, novel is a piece of prose fiction of a reasonable length. Novel also contains

a greater variety of characters, greater complication of plot, a fuller development of setting and deeper, more sustained exploration of character and motives (Barry 5). So, novel is long enough to fill a complete book. The content of a novel usually tells about human daily problems (Jassin 85). In function, novel can express the side of human nature (the pure passions, that is to say the dreams, joys, and sorrows) (Brooks 5).

One of the novels the writer analyzes belongs to Toni Morrison's work. The writer chooses Toni Morrison's work to be analyzed because she is a great novelist. Her novel represents her opinion about beauty standard that develop in the African-American society. She is one of writer who disagrees with the standardization of white beauty. She thinks that every woman should be able to receive her physical attributes. Her style language in her novel is simple and vivid dialogue. In her works, she disagrees that the skin color creates limitation to each culture because she thinks that the people's belief about white beauty standard is wrong. She believes that beauty is not something to behold, but something one could do (Morrison 209). "Morrison was one of the first writers, black or white, to ask what happened to the mind, heart and soul, of a young African-American girl who is raised in a society that values beauty standards that are not her own" (Rhodes 50).

As a great African-American writer, Toni Morrrison tries to reveal that the concept of beauty in African-American standard can influence their self-esteem. She thinks that the great problem among African-American society is the difference of

skin. She has been being successful to voice her inspiration through her great works. Her novels are known to have a "lyrical prose, storytelling, African-American folklore, and African-American history which are giving a new thing to the American literary establishment" (Rhodes 9)

Toni Morrison gets so many Noble Prizes. She has won a Noble Prize in literature and became a highly respected editor at Random House at that time (Rhodes 59). Besides that, she also becomes a great professor of literature at some universities. As mentioned earlier, Morrison is one of black African American author who has a great achievement in whole this world. In 1977, she got national Book Critics Circle Award for her Song of Solomon. In 1988 she won Anisfield –Wolf Book Award and Pulitzer prize, which is the one of the most distinguished awards in America, for her beloved (Rhodes 81).

Toni Morrison has written nine novels. Her first novel was *The Bluest Eye* which at the first time was written as a short story talking about a young African-American girl who had prayed to God for blue eyes (Rhodes 43). Then in 1970 this story evolved into her first novel entitled The Bluest Eye. In 2000, *The Bluest Eye* was chosen as a selection of Oprah's Books Club. In 1973, she wrote her second novel Sula, a story talking about a very close friendship between two African-American women named Sula and Nel who live completely different lives and have different points of view about what makes life worth living (Rhodes 55). In 1975, it was nominated for the National Book Award (Rhodes 59). Her third novel is Song of

In 1981, Morrison wrote her fourth novel entitle *Tar Baby*, a story of a passionate love affair between a fugitive named Son Green and young, sophisticated, high- educated black model named Jadine Childs (Rhodes 67). In 1987, Morrison wrote her fifth novel entitle beloved, a story telling about runaway slave named Sethe who escape from her plantation whose children then was killed by herself in order to protect them from enslavement (Rhodes 78). This novel became a real success and won The Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988. Her others work are Jazz (1992), Paradise (1999), Love (2003), and the newest one is Mercy (2008).

One of the novels of Toni Morrison the writer analyzes is *The Bluest Eye*. The novel tells about Pecola who believes that with blue eyes, blonde hair and white skin, people will regard her existence. This belief brings her into the greatest effect to her psyche. As an African-American, she must deal with the concept of beauty. Her condition of Breedlove's family was full of violence experience. Pecola gets many problems in her life. Her life is difficult because no one pay any attention to her. Furthermore, her inability to accept reality put her in deep sadness of inferiority.

From All the bad treatments and lack of love in Pecola's life support her obsession for beauty. In her inferiority, Pecola thinks that to be admitted and be part of the society she must have that beauty. She believes that if she owns that beauty she will get everything. For her, "having blue eyes mean having everything: love, acceptance, friend, and family; in short, a truly enviable place in the society" (Harris 43). From the synopsis above the writer is interested in rising into thesis because there are great effects from the causes of inferiority.

1.2 Statement of the problem

From the "The Bluest Eye" novel, the writer is interested in analyzing the problem come to the main character. Which are formulated as follows:

- 1.2.2 What are the causes of Pecola's inferiority in novel *The Bluest Eye?*
- 1.2.2 What are the effects of Pecola's inferiority toward her personality in novel *The Bluest Eye*?

1.3 Purpose of the study

In accordance with the statement of the problem stated above, this study has two objectives that can be stated as follows:

1.3.1 To know what are the causes of Pecola's inferiority in novel *The Bluest Eye?*

1.3.2 To know what are the effects of Pecola's inferiority toward her personality in novel The Bluest Eye

1.3 Significance of the study

This study is expected to be able to help the writer and reader to get deeper understanding about the novel and get benefit from each other. The writer hopes it can make reader more interest in Tony Morrison's works especially in The Bluest Eye novel and psychological study in literary works. Secondly, the writer expects that by reading this thesis, the readers will have further view of inferiority especially about the causes and the effect of the inferiority.

1.4 Scope and limitation

The scope of this research is inferiority. This research will be limited on Pecola's character in Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* novel. Furthermore, to make clear in this analysis the writer uses the causes and effect of Pecola's inferiority as individual psychology of inferiority as supporting theory to analysis.

1.6 Method of the study

Every research has a method to make clearer about the data and analysis process. There are some methods in research field. Those are research design, supporting data, data collection, and data analysis.

1.6.1 Research design

In this case the writer uses descriptive analysis for this study. The core of descriptive analysis relates to the processes of describing phenomena, classifying it, and seeing how the concepts interconnect. Descriptive studies can be contrasted unfavorably with more analytic and theoretically oriented research, as though description is a 'low level' activity hardly worth attention (Dey 31-32). The data observation is library based. Therefore, from library data the writer has opportunities to have good data from books, e-book, and online resources.

1.6.2 Data

The data consist of two parts. They are main data and supporting data:

a. Main data

The main data is taken from a western novel *The Bluest Eye* by Tony Morrison.

b. Supporting data

Supporting data is taken from some information, such as from some books, thesis, and internet. The writer uses individual psychoanalysis inferiority theory which related to the topic.

1.6.3 Data collection

In collecting the data, the writer will use some steps to get the data. First, the writer will read the novel as the subject of the research and understand the novel as deeply as the researcher can be analyzed. Second, the writer takes some note to collecting the valid data. Then, the writer analyzes the text of novel chapter by chapter in detail.

1.6.4 Data analysis

After all data already collected, the writer analyzes all the data collection. To analyze the data, the writer identifies and classifies the data concerning the problems of the study. The writer applies individual psychology of inferiority as supporting theory analysis. After identifying and classifying the data, the writer can answer the question in statement problem above.

1.7 Organization of the study

In this thesis, there are four chapters. The first chapter consists of background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation, method of the study, organization of the study. In the second chapter is review of related theory used in analysis the topic and review of related study. The third part is the discussion in which the writer applies with theory, to the analysis of Pecola's inferiority. Finally, the writer concludes all the discussion in the last chapter.